

2003–2005. The rate in Kumano was the highest in 2001, but afterwards, the suicide rates were lower than the rates of Owase and Ueno (Fig. 1b). There were no distinct differences between districts (data not shown) in the suicide rates among the female population. We feel it is critical to immediately implement concrete prevention measures for suicides due to economic reasons among males in Mie Prefecture, in cooperation with the health center administration, medical staff, police, Department of Work, related groups and citizens.

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“Suicidal poisoning in Southern India: Gender differences” – Authors’ response

Dear Editor,

We are pleased to discover the attention our research¹ has generated in a recently published response [J Forensic Legal Med 2009;16:45]. However, the authors’ belief that their response to our article is a representation of the medical fraternity is truly surprising.

We wish to highlight that our research primarily deals with the gender differences in suicidal poisoning and not farmer suicides specifically. Unfortunately the authors have largely misinterpreted our arguments that were meant to explore some possibilities responsible for fatal suicidal poisoning in the region. The fact that keeps us most amused is the very fact that even the authors have not bothered to study the reasons for the very sensitive issue of farmer suicides and have put forth a seemingly valid argument “it is argued that rural indebtedness was responsible for the high rate of suicides...” without any references or study of the situation. Strict legislation with regard to sale and purchase of agrochemicals however, remains a proven measure to bring down the poisoning fatalities and suicides in India.

Authors’ enthusiasm about the telepsychological treatment based on a news article is appreciable. It is most satisfying to find that the authors agree with our opinion that the root cause of psychological disorders among specific groups must be diagnosed and treated by qualified psychiatrists.

Conflict of Interest

The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

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